

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /090 W
-----010229 211059Z /23

O 211044Z JUN 78 ZFF KABUL
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1122
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 09399

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, AF
SUBJECT: ATTEMPT TO LIBERATE AFGHAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: A. STATE 155569; B. KABUL 4950; C. LONDON 9739

1. ACCOMPANIED BY HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS COUNSELOR, I CALLED ON ICRC PRESIDENT ALEXANDRE HAY EVENING OF JUNE 20, TO STRESS POINTS PRESENTED REFS A AND B AND AGAIN URGE SPEEDY ACTION ON PART OF ICRC TO EFFECT EARLY RELEASE OF AFGHAN POLITICAL PRISONERS. ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING WERE BORSINGER AND ICRC OPERATIONS DIRECTOR HOCKE.
2. AS ENVISIONED PARA 2, REF A, BRITISH HERE, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH LONDON, ELECTED NOT TO ACCOMPANY US ON THIS CALL (SEE REF C).
3. IN RESPONSE TO POINTS RAISED AND TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, HAY AND HIS COLLEAGUES STATED THAT BOREL NOW HAS HIS AFGHAN VISA AND WILL PROCEED AS SOON AS AFGHAN CONCURRENCE ON A DATE CAN BE OBTAINED. HOCKE SAID THAT THIS SHOULD BE "WITHIN TWO WEEKS" AND, WHEN ASKED CONCERNING EARLIER
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PROJECTED DATE OF APPROXIMATELY JUNE 25, WITH NEED FOR URGENCY STRESSED, REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD SEND HIM AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.

4. AGAIN IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTION, ICRC REPS SAID THAT BOREL WOULD CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND THAT A CABLE REQUESTING THIS APPOINTMENT WOULD BE SENT

BY ICRC HEADQUARTERS TO KABUL.

5. COMMENT: I THINK THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE ICRC HAS GOTTEN THE MESSAGE AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS BOTH THE NEED FOR URGENCY AND FOR THE APPROACH TO BE MADE AT A HIGH LEVEL IN THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT. IT SEEMS TO ME, HOWEVER, GIVEN OUR EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS MATTER, THAT WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SUGGEST COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM WHERE THESE PEOPLE CAN BE TAKEN FOR PROCESSING AS SOON AS THEIR RELEASE HAS BEEN EFFECTED. THEREFORE, I RECOMMEND THAT APPROPRIATE APPROACHES BE MADE, PERHAPS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES SUCH AS IRAN AND PAKISTAN, TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE INDIVIDUALS RELEASED MIGHT NOT BE RECEIVED. END COMMENT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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